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COUNTRY: Lebanon/Jerusalem

CIA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Attitude towards Point Four/Problem of
Resettlement of Arab Refugees

DATE [REDACTED]

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1. While I was in the Near East, in December 1952 and January 1953, I talked with many people from all walks of life and was able to gain some idea of their attitudes on many subjects. In Lebanon I talked with a number of students at the American University in Beirut, and among them was a young Arab intern who impressed me as being a very bright young man. He was about 18. He was very friendly and polite, but when we got onto the subject of Point Four he seemed a bit cynical. He said that his people knew what the US was up to with that program -- that the US was not fooling anyone. He said it was obvious to him and his people that the US was attempting to develop the countries where the Point Four program was active simply to have the under developed countries in better shape to serve the US when war came.

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2. Another person I met and talked with at length was [REDACTED] who conducted the Christmas services I attended in Bethlehem (1952). [REDACTED] who had been at a monastery in Gethsemane for some time, and his sympathies on the Arab-Jewish problem seemed to be very much on the side of the Arabs. One thing he said to me (on the day after the Christmas services) was that he did not expect to see another peaceful Christmas in the Holy Land. He felt that open hostilities between the Arabs and Jews would be resumed before that time. He also listed a number of Arab demands which he believed would have to be met before any settlement could be reached between the Arabs and Jews. For one thing, he said he believed that the Arabs were ready to accept the partition of the Holy Land proposed by the UN in 1947. In addition to the partition he said the Arabs wanted the internationalization of Jerusalem, a resettlement of the refugees and payment for land and possessions which formerly belonged to Arabs. He said that if these demands were not met there would be more trouble. On the problem of the resettlement of refugees, Father Eugene said that this was considered a bigger problem than it really was. He said that the Tel Aviv Arabs in particular were misunderstood, and he felt that many of them would return to Tel Aviv if given the opportunity.

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Attitude

Lebanon

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